



## New Year at Ranua



**HOLIDAY TYPE:** Small Group  
**VISITING:** Finland

**BROCHURE CODE:** 1799  
**DURATION:** 3 nights

### In Brief

This nature-filled New Year retreat is the perfect way to celebrate with your family. The three-night itinerary is packed with our most magical, furry friend-filled activities, including a husky safari, a reindeer sleigh ride and a visit to Ranua Wildlife Park. Here you will see a myriad of Finland's native fauna, and you will even get to feed the park's polar bears! To top it all off you will see the New Year in style!

### Our Opinion

“*Ranua is one of our most popular family destinations, as every aspect of what it has to offer is so appealing for kids and parents alike. The Wildlife Park is such a great facility to have during your stay, as there are few opportunities in life to get so close to so many special animals! Spending New Year's Eve here promises to be a unique and special post-Christmas treat for everyone.*”

Amy Hope



## What's included?

- **Flights:** return flights from London to Rovaniemi (via Helsinki). Flight routes are subject to change
- **Transfers:** return airport transfers
- **Accommodation:** 3 nights in superior apartment accommodation
- **Meals:** 3 breakfasts, 3 dinners
- **The following activities are included in the holiday:** Entrance fee (unlimited entries allowed) and guided tour of Ranua Wildlife Park, husky safari, reindeer sleigh ride, Northern Lights safari by Finn horse-pulled sleigh, New Year's Eve celebrations including a glass of sparkling wine for the grown-ups **(the order of activities is subject to change)**
- Cold weather clothing for the duration of your stay
- Fully qualified wilderness guides and instructors for all activities

## Trip Overview

This three-night itinerary over New Year offers a special and unforgettable experience for the whole family. We have carefully hand-picked some of our favourite winter activities and festive experiences to create the perfect short break.

Your nature-orientated agenda will see you meeting the wide variety of wildlife that Ranua has to offer. As a ticket to Ranua Wildlife Park is included in the price, you can visit the impressive array of animals that live in their wintry home. Here, you can see moose, otters, golden eagles and Arctic fox! You will even meet the park's polar bears as you assist your guide in feeding them. And finally, you will also make some new, furry friends during your husky safari and reindeer sleigh ride.

As well as making the most of the fascinating animals at Ranua, we cannot forget about the Northern Lights, which are often put on a phenomenal display at this time of year. We include an Aurora excursion to help improve your chances of witnessing the lights.

We will not be offering a full board upgrade to include lunch in December, but guests can arrange and pay for this locally. In our experience, the restaurant can become busy during the festive lunchtimes, with outside visitors to the park. We have found that most families prefer to make their own lunch arrangements in their wonderfully equipped apartment kitchens. Breakfast and dinner are

included in all our holidays.

If you wish to add other activities to your trip, we have some fantastic options detailed in the '[Personalise](#)' tab of the holiday page, including a visit to Father Christmas's Secret Cabin and a snowmobile safari.

On New Year's Eve, you will enjoy an evening filled with celebrations and fun, as you are served a delicious Gala Dinner.

During your stay, your accommodation will be in your very own apartment at the Gulo Gulo Holiday Village, which sits amongst the snow just a short walk from Wildlife Park.

Please note that the order of activities is subject to change and the final agenda will be confirmed on arrival.

©Gulo Gulo Holiday Village

## Agenda

Please note the order of activities is subject to change

DAY  
1

ARRIVAL

Once you arrive at the airport, you will be transferred to your accommodation, which will take around one hour. You'll be travelling through Northern Lights territory on your way to Ranua, so don't forget to keep an eye on the sky.

**Included Meals:** Dinner

DAY  
2

RANUA WILDLIFE PARK, HUSKY SAFARI AND NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS

This morning, you will be provided with your cold-weather clothing and will enjoy breakfast in the restaurant. Then, your guided tour of Ranua Wildlife Park will begin. You can admire the animals in their spacious enclosures, each of which has been carefully designed to match their natural habitats as closely as possible. Your guide will tell you all about the animals, and you may even have the chance to feed some of the smaller inhabitants.

You will then return to your apartment before having the chance to meet some more furry friends – huskies! Back at the Wildlife Park, the huskies will be excitedly awaiting your arrival, barking impatiently, eager to start the husky ride.

Adults will be given a full overview and safety briefing regarding how to drive the sleigh, before you set off, two people per sled, into the shimmering white wilderness. You will drive for around twenty to

thirty minutes, covering approximately 5km. Generally, those aged 15 and over can drive a team. The guides, however, must put clients' safety first and therefore this decision is completely at their discretion. Children will otherwise travel in the sleds.

Following the safari, the huskies will be much calmer after their exercise and they'll be far more likely to sit still for those all-important photos.

Tonight is New Year's Eve. You will enjoy a delicious Gala Dinner, and adults will receive a complimentary glass of sparkling wine. Father Christmas is due to make a special appearance at dinner tonight, so keep your eyes peeled for the man in red.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

DAY  
3

REINDEER SLEIGH RIDE AND NORTHERN SAFARI BY FINN HORSE-PULLED SLEIGH

This morning you will have some free time. Please browse through the '[Personalise](#)' tab and see if any additional activities catch your eye. You could find yourself speeding across the fells on a snowmobile safari to the impressive Snow Village, to admire the magical ice sculptures and igloos. Or, why not strap on some skis and head out for a cross-country skiing lesson? The choice is yours.

Later this afternoon, you will meet the Wildlife Park's reindeer! This is the perfect activity following Christmas, as the reindeer are winding down from a very busy season of helping Father Christmas with his deliveries. You will sit in your cosy sleigh and be pulled along on a relaxing ride through the silent, tranquil surroundings - you may spot some wildlife along the way, along with plenty of snow-covered, wintry flora. You will cover around 3km in your sleigh, and the activity will last for approximately 40 minutes in total.

This is your final night and after dinner this evening you will set out on a hunt for the Northern Lights during a horse-drawn sleigh ride (6-8 people per sleigh) with Finn horses. You'll be wrapped up warm in your sleigh as you listen to stories about Lapland. Take in the magic of the wintry surroundings at night and if conditions are favourable, the magic will extend into the skies as the Northern Lights make their appearances. This activity will last approximately 2 hours.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

DAY  
4

DEPARTURE

Unfortunately, it is time to depart today. You can enjoy breakfast at Ranua before your transfer will take you back to Rovaniemi for your return flights home.

**Included Meals:** Breakfast

## Personalise this tour

## Our pick



### Extended husky safari (10km)

For those families looking to get a bit more out of their exciting husky experience, there is the option to extend your husky safari to an hour which will cover around 10km of frozen Arctic wilderness. This will give your family plenty of time to enjoy the excitement of travelling across the snow with your eager team of huskies.

**Duration:** 1 hour

**Please note:** All decisions are made on the day of the safari by the lead guide as to any guest's suitability to drive their own dog sled. As a general rule, those aged 15 and over are normally able to drive their own team of huskies but the guide's decision on the day will be final and in the interest of safety. Children under the age of 15 will either travel in a sledge driven by the guide or an accompanying adult.

## Other options

ACTIVITIES



## Snowmobile safari to the reindeer farm

Following driving instructions, you will set out on snowmobile towards Laivala, a small authentic reindeer farm, which is approximately 15km from the Holiday Village Gulo Gulo. Here you will be welcomed by the herder and taken to see his reindeer, before enjoying a short reindeer sled ride (300m approximately).

Back at the farm you will enjoy a hot snack and learn more about the life of the reindeer herders and their long history in this region. The activity will end with a snowmobile trip back to the hotel.

**Duration:** approximately 3 hours

**Please note:** the driver of a snowmobile must be at least 18 years old and hold a valid driving licence. Children will travel in a sled pulled by the guide's snowmobile on selected safaris where this is offered. Older children may be able to travel as pillion on the snowmobile but this is at the discretion of the guide. Single driver supplement applies.



## Ice fishing via snowmobile

Your guide will give full instructions before you set off via snowmobile heading towards a nearby frozen lake. Here you will learn more about the long history of ice fishing and try your hand at it too. Warm drinks will be served around the fire and there will be the chance to cook anything that you may catch!

**Duration:** approximately 3 hours (30km)

**Please note:** the driver of a snowmobile must be at least 18 years old and hold a valid driving licence. Children will travel in a sled pulled by the guide's snowmobile on selected safaris where this is offered. Older children may be able to travel as pillion on the snowmobile but this is at the discretion of the guide. Single driver supplement applies.



## Searching for the Aurora Borealis via Snowmobile

Heading out into the darkness via snowmobile is a wonderful way to explore the night-time wilderness and your guide will lead the way along the dark forest trails. There will be breaks to enjoy a hot drink and keep a keen watch on the sky in anticipation of a potential Northern Lights display.

**Duration:** approximately 3 hours

**Please note:** the driver of a snowmobile must be at least 18 years old and hold a valid driving licence. Children will travel in a sled pulled by the guide's snowmobile on selected safaris where this is offered. Older children may be able to travel as pillion on the snowmobile but this is at the discretion of the guide. Single driver supplement applies.

**Image credit:** Antti Pietikainen



## Snowshoeing

One of the best ways to enjoy the wonderful forest neighbouring the wildlife park is to strap on a pair of snowshoes and head into the deep snow to explore. Your guide will offer lots of interesting information on the way on the local flora and fauna.

**Duration:** approximately 2 hours



## Cross-country Skiing

Explore the Arctic the ancient way – on cross-country skis! Your guide will teach you the various techniques of this activity before you head out to put your skills into practice. The ski tracks reside close to the Ranua Wildlife Park and will cover around 3km.

**Duration:** approximately 2 hours (3km)



## Visit Father Christmas in His Secret Cabin

Hidden in the depths of the forest is Father Christmas's very special cabin and this is your chance to visit the man himself! Your guide will drive you the short 10-minute journey amongst the trees, stopping on the way to seek out clues to Father Christmas's whereabouts. Eventually, you will come across a tiny wooden cabin where you will be warmly welcomed by the man in red!

You will spend around 20 minutes here allowing the children to talk with Father Christmas, listen to his stories and ask him any questions they may have about his very important job.

**Duration:** approximately 45 minutes





## Lappish Workshop in Ranua: Arts and Crafts With Ms. Paula

Join local handicraft artist Ms. Paula in her workshop, where you'll make a traditional Lappish souvenir to take home with you.

You can choose between different sessions depending on the item you want to make. From genuine reindeer leather shoulder bags and pouches to a unique piece of

Lappish jewellery, the choice is yours! Children can also take part by making a red-nosed reindeer using a variety of materials.

The workshop is situated in Ranua's traditional Lappish hut, located next to the information and ticket sales office.

Minimum group size is 4 persons and maximum group size is 36 persons (excluding the round reindeer leather pouch or a small bag workshop where the minimum group size is 8 and the maximum is 38).

**Duration: 1-1.5 hours in total**

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**Image credit: Gulo Gulo Holiday Village**

SPECIAL NIGHTS



## Arctic Fox Igloo

These beautiful glass igloos add a very special accommodation experience to any stay at Ranua. There are 20 igloos in total (10 twin igloos and 10 family/lakeside igloos) which are located around 8km from Ranua Wildlife Park. They are set in an idyllic lakeside location with very little light pollution and uninterrupted views to the North, giving you an excellent chance of watching the Northern Lights from your bed, talk about a holiday memory!

### Twin igloos

The igloos include a twin bed and have a small kitchenette, a bathroom with private sauna (this is Finland after all!) and a limited lake view. Guests will normally be transferred to the igloos after their evening meal at Ranua and are then picked up the following morning in time for breakfast back at the main restaurant. Whilst there is no reception building at the igloo camp, all guests receive a contact number in case of any questions or issues.

### Family/lakeside igloos

These igloos have the same facilities as the twin igloos but have a double bed and space for two small extra beds for children (4-14 years old) and a lake view. Please note that the maximum occupancy is 2 adults and 2 children (4-14 years old).

Guests will normally be transferred to the igloos after their evening meal at Ranua and are then picked up the following morning in time for breakfast back at the main restaurant. Whilst there is no reception building at the igloo camp, all guests receive a contact number in case of any questions or issues.

Please note, that the example price listed is based on guests spending the final night of their holiday in an igloo, and checking out of their apartment accommodation. If guests wish to spend any other night during their stay in a glass igloo, they must retain their apartment accommodation. Our Travel Experts will happily provide you with a quotation.

**Image credits: Jari Romppainen & Marko Juntilla**

## Included Accommodation

Gulo Gulo Holiday Village (Nights: 1-3)



Located around 4km from the small town of Ranua, the Gulo Gulo Holiday Village takes its name from the Latin word for Wolverine, one of Finland's rare native animals and is an ideal family base. The wildlife theme continues throughout due to the accommodation's proximity to the Ranua Wildlife Park which guests have unlimited access to throughout their stay.

The holiday village offers families modern comfortable apartments which are very well equipped.

## Hotel facilities

- Ranua Wildlife Park offers a wonderful opportunity to observe the lives of Arctic wild animals in their natural environments. Your ticket entitles you to visit the wildlife park as many times as you wish during your stay, something that our families always love
- The simple but convivial restaurant is situated at the wildlife park itself which is just across the road from your accommodation. Here you will enjoy your breakfast and dinner, offering a selection of traditional Finnish foods and international dishes for all the family to enjoy, including a children's menu. Lunch is also available to guests (payable locally)
- Free Wi-Fi is available throughout the apartments

## Room types

### APARTMENTS

The apartments are beautifully decorated with all modern comforts for families. In total, there are thirty holiday apartments at Gulo Gulo, which are housed within ten semi-detached building backing onto a lovely forest landscape.

The ground floor accommodation comprises of an open-plan living room with flat screen TV, kitchen and dining area. The kitchen is well equipped with stove, microwave, dishwasher, fridge, coffee maker and kettle (you may want to take your own tea and coffee to enjoy in your apartment).

There is one twin bedroom downstairs as well as the bathroom which includes a shower, toilet and drying cabinet for clothes. There is also a private sauna which is a real treat. The accommodation also features a hairdryer and ironing facilities if required.

On the first floor, there is a second twin bedroom as well as an open loft area with two smaller extra beds (suitable for children) as well as a shower and toilet. All linen is of course provided.

The apartments have their own decking area which can come in very handy for viewing the local wildlife or (fingers crossed!) maybe even the Northern Lights.

## The Specifics

### Holiday group size (approximate)

This holiday requires a minimum of 4 people to run, however, we require a minimum of 8 people for our flight allocation. Maximum 42 people (approximately). Please speak to our Travel Experts for further information.

### Group Size

We always try to provide an approximation of the group size you can expect to be with for the duration of each of our holidays. It may be that you are joined by others for parts of your holiday (such as transfers and particular activities) but the above number reflects those you can normally expect to be with from beginning to end. If group size is something which is particularly important to you, please speak to our Travel Experts and they can suggest the best holidays for you.

Tailor-made holiday group sizes will vary for all activities as will the group size for any additional activities you book.

### Minimum numbers required for a holiday to operate

Some of our holidays require a minimum number of participants to operate (as listed in the 'Group Size' section). If your holiday departure has not yet reached the minimum number, you will be told at the time of booking. In the unlikely event that your chosen date is not guaranteed by nine weeks before your scheduled departure date, we will contact you to discuss the available options as per our booking conditions.

### Minimum and maximum age

The minimum age for this holiday can be found in the 'Key Facts' section of the holiday overview.

Younger family members may be able to participate but may not be able to take part in all activities. Please contact one of our Travel Experts if you have any questions.

# Itinerary amendments

The order of activities listed in this agenda is provided for guidance only, your final and detailed itinerary will be provided either with your final travel documents (which are uploaded into your online account around a week prior to departure) or upon arrival.

## Terms and Conditions

Our full booking terms and conditions can be found on our website: <https://www.activitiesabroad.com/booking-conditions>

### Swim stops

There are plenty of opportunities during our cruises for refreshing swim stops in some beautiful spots en route. Please note that this is not a supervised or guided activity and whilst safety equipment is provided on board and staff members will be present, each passenger is responsible for their own safety whilst in the water.